

# Community Resilience Newsletter

## Wye River Fire

COMMUNITY  
RESILIENCE

WYE RIVER | SEPARATION CREEK

29 SEPTEMBER 2016

*This newsletter is issued by Colac Otway Shire to provide the community key updates about recovery following the fire.*

### **Message from the Emergency Services Commissioner**

With the Wye River and Separation Creek communities again feeling the impact of an emergency, we have a big interest in the wellbeing of community members and we are collectively working to ensure we're doing what we can to support them.

It's important to understand that there is a real chance of more landslides occurring along the Great Ocean Road and that safety of community members, of visitors and of those who are working to clear roads, undertake drainage and maintenance issues has to be the focus. The concerns and potential impacts are shared by many in the broader area. We recognise the impacts are being felt at Cumberland River, Kennett River and of course into Apollo Bay and Lorne either side.

The Incident Control Centre is working locally with community members, businesses, VicRoads, Grocon and Council as well as with us to understand and attempt to mitigate some of the immediate concerns. This has included finding solutions for access between Wye River and Separation Creek and getting parts of the Great Ocean Road open when safe. We're also looking at the longer term impacts.

Because it is an emergency incident, information is available through [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au).

We're using Council's information channels and WyeSep Connect facebook and website to support the dissemination of that information. That's where the focus has been instead of the original bushfire recovery.

Obviously those living or visiting Wye Sep are the focus of the incident management team and must remain the first priority. More general communications will be provided to the broader community.

Please take care of yourself and others in another difficult period. We understand that people will be anxious about what it means to have more landslides. We all react differently, and your wellbeing remains the primary issue for us all.

**Craig Lapsley**  
**Emergency Services Commissioner**

### **Grocon shuttle and Stanway Drive**

A landslide on Cassidy's Track overnight on September 28 means Stanway Drive is closed for general use. However, Grocon will continue to operate the shuttle between Wye River and Separation Creek, with passengers required to walk the 20 metres of track affected by the landslide.

For 24-hour access to the shuttle on Friday, Saturday and Sunday please phone 0408 864 170.

### **What's On in October**

#### **ICC community meeting**

Sunday, 2 October, 3pm

Wye River Surf Life Saving Club

#### **WyeSep Bird Day**

Saturday 8 October, 10am-4pm

Wye River Surf Life Saving Club

## **Council garbage collections resume**

Colac-Otway Shire has resumed garbage collections in Separation Creek following the reopening of the Great Ocean Road from Cumberland River to Separation Creek on Monday 26 September.

Council's garbage trucks have received an exemption from VicRoads to travel on the road to ensure they can continue to collect garbage.

## **Free massages postponed**

The free massages scheduled to take place at the Wye River Surf Club on Monday 3 October have been postponed due to weather events and road conditions.

Lorraine Biddle, the qualified massage therapist, will directly contact those who have booked to reschedule.

## **Temporary bus service to Apollo Bay**

Due to the emergency road works on the Great Ocean Road causing V/Line coach diversions, McHarry's Buslines is providing a temporary bus service from today to provide access from Wye River to Apollo Bay.

For details and a timetable see [here](#)

## **GP visit a success**

Dr David Mullen from the Lorne Community Hospital visited Wye River on Monday 26 September.

He conducted a number of home visits and private consultations, which was a great support for the community.

Dr Mullen is also supporting community members with access via phone or video link for matters such as minor injuries or repeat prescriptions. To make an appointment or to speak to Dr Mullen, call 5289 4333.

## **Update on key projects**

Over the past several weeks, Council and all of the agencies have been focusing on ensuring community safety in Wye River and Separation Creek in light of the landslide risk and closure of the Great Ocean Road.

This has, and will continue to be our priority as well as addressing issues such as creating a safe connection between the two communities and ensuring long-term stability of the area through the work being conducted by Grocon and Colac Otway Shire.

As a result, a number of the recovery projects including the release of the new building guidelines, emergency management planning and release of the Asset Protection Zone Report have been put on hold. We appreciate your understanding as we work to achieve the best possible long-term outcomes for these communities.